



# Homeland Security

## National Response Framework (NRF)

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### The National Response Framework Guides All Hazard Response

The NRF is built upon flexible, scalable and adaptable coordinating structures to align key roles and responsibilities across jurisdictions, linking all levels of government and all sectors of communities. It focuses on response and short-term recovery and is intended to capture specific authorities and best practices for managing incidents that range from the serious but purely local, to large-scale terrorist attacks or catastrophic natural disasters.

### Written for Two Audiences

The NRF is written especially for government executives, private-sector business, and nongovernmental leaders and emergency management practitioners. The NRF's clear, simple style makes the serious work of incident management understandable for government and business executives as well as practitioners.

- ▲ The NRF is addressed to senior elected and appointed leaders, such as federal department or agency heads, state governors, mayors, tribal leaders or city managers – those who have a responsibility to provide for effective emergency management.
- ▲ The NRF also informs emergency management practitioners, explaining the operating structures and tools used routinely by first responders and emergency managers at all levels of government.
- ▲ The NRF Resource Center is an important online reference in support of the NRF and provides stakeholders at all levels of government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations access to the NRF and supporting documents.

### Identifies Response Doctrine

The NRF retains the same core principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in which first responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together more closely to effectively respond to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism. The NRF presents the core principles more clearly and includes them in a newly described Response Doctrine that describes how we respond.

The *NRF* is built on the following five principles:

- ▲ Engaged partnerships;
- ▲ Tiered response;
- ▲ Scalable, flexible and adaptable operational capabilities;
- ▲ Unity of effort through unified command; and
- ▲ Readiness to act

### Draws Focus on Preparedness

Effective preparedness is a critical precondition for successful response. The NRF encourages a higher state of readiness by drawing a sharper focus on the value of preparedness activities that can improve response across all jurisdictions: planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising and applying lessons learned. Mastery of these key tasks supports unity of effort, and thus our ability to save lives, protect property and meet basic human needs.

### Simply Stated: The NRF Guides the Conduct of All-Hazards Response

We can respond more effectively to incidents, and best serve our communities and the nation, by joining elected and appointed officials with dedicated practitioners, NGOs and the private sector; applying common NIMS principles; adhering to response doctrine; and being better prepared.